



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

*Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa,
St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook*



15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 16TH JULY 2023

WE WELCOME FR JIM MCKAY THIS WEEKEND TO OUR PARISH AND THANK HIM FOR CELEBRATING MASS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES THIS WEEKEND, DURING THE WEEK AND NEXT WEEKEND.

This Sunday's Gospel (Mt 13:1-23) shows us Jesus preaching on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, and because a large crowd surrounds him, He climbs into a boat, goes a little away from the shore and preaches from there. When he speaks to the people, Jesus uses many parables: in language understandable to everyone, with images from nature and from everyday situations.

The first story he tells is an introduction to all the parables: that of the sower, who sows his seed unsparingly on every type of soil. And the real protagonist of this parable is actually the seed, which produces more or less according to the type of soil upon which it falls. The first three areas are unproductive: along the path the seed is eaten by birds; on rocky ground the sprouts are scorched and wither away because they have no roots; among the briars the seed is choked by thorns. The fourth piece of ground is good soil, and only there does the seed take root and bear fruit.

In this case, Jesus does not limit himself to presenting this parable, he also explains it to his disciples. The seed fallen on the path stands for those who hear the message of the Kingdom of God but do not understand it; thus the evil one comes and snatches it away. Indeed, the evil one does not want the seed of the Gospel to sprout in the heart of man. This is the first analogy. The second is that of the seed fallen among the stones:

this represents the people who hear the word of God and understand it immediately, but superficially, because they have no roots and they are unsettled; and when trials and tribulations arise, these people give up immediately. The third case is that of the seed fallen among the briars: Jesus explains that this refers to the people who hear the word but they, because of the cares of the world and the seduction of riches, are choked. Finally, the seed fallen on fertile soil represents those who hear the word, accept it, cherish it and understand it, and they bear fruit. The perfect model of this good soil is the Virgin Mary.

This parable speaks to each of us today, as it spoke to those who listened to Jesus 2,000 years ago. It reminds us that we are the soil where the Lord tirelessly sows the seed of his Word and of his love. How do we receive it? And we can ask ourselves: how is our heart? Which soil does it resemble: that of the path, the rocks, the thorns? It's up to us to become good soil with neither thorns nor stones, but tilled and cultivated with care, so it may bear good fruit for us and for our brothers and sisters.

And it will do us good not to forget that we too are sowers. God sows good seed, and here too we can also ask ourselves: which type of seed comes out of our heart and our mouth? Our words can do much good and also much harm; they can heal and they can wound; they can encourage and they can dishearten. Remember: what counts is not what goes in but what encourage and they can dishearten. Remember: what counts is not what goes in but what comes out of the mouth and of the heart. © Pope Francis

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, Wed and Fri 10:30 -2:30

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbers & Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



Please keep in your prayers

Recent Deaths

Gennaro (Jim) De Gregorio
Lila O'Meara
Paul McNamara
Gordon Murdoch

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Bernard Foott Ted Meney
Owen Stanley Bill Hayes
Annunziata "Nancy" Maiuto
Moira Higgins Dot Corridan

SICK LIST

Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,
Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,
Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,
Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,
Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan, Leo Clarke

**THIS WEEKEND (15/16TH JULY)
14TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Lalbert
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday: 10am
Wednesday: 10am
Wednesday Culgoa 1pm Requiem Mass for Paul
McNamara
Thursday: 10am
Friday: Confession 10.30am; Adoration 11am
Mass 11.30am
Saturday: 10am

**NEXT WEEKEND (22ND/23RD JULY)
15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6:00pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
First Reading: Wisdom 12:13.16-19
Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

NOTICES



FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL MONTE CARMELO

This Sunday 16th July is the annual Festa Della
Madonna del Monte Carmelo starting with Mass at
10:30am followed by a Pasta Lunch and Raffle in the
Parish Function Centre. All are most welcome!



THANK YOU

Hello Holy Family Parish!

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Ballarat
Diocese, Holy Family Parish and Father James for all of
your prayers, support and donations, before we take off
for Portugal in a couple of weeks. We are so grateful for
this opportunity that has been provided to us, and are very
appreciative of the parish for supporting us in exploring
our faith and getting the chance to meet other young
people on the same journey.

We especially wanted to thank everyone who donated
money at the Parish Pentecost Party for our pilgrimage to
Portugal. We will keep you and your families in our prayers
as we travel on this exciting journey.

Once again thank you all so much for your support.

God bless,

Anna, Grace and Gerry
WYD Lisbon Pilgrims 2023

**St Mary's Primary School Sea
Lake**

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Our Parish Schools

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Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
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St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

CATHERINE O'CONNOR MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass for Catherine O'Connor (Kelly), who died at Willangie, July 27, 1923, will be offered at the Woomelang Cemetery on Saturday July 22 2023 followed by lunch at the Woomelang Memorial Hall.

Descendants, other O'Connor and Kelly relatives, friends of the families and any who wish to commemorate her life are welcome.

Please contact: aldous.julie.a@gmail.com



HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What explanation does Jesus give for speaking in parables?

What reason/s can you suggest for Jesus not teaching in a more explicit way?

What are the 'thorns' in your life that fight for your attention with your faith?

What is a contemporary metaphor that might adequately replace the image of a sower?

What is suggested by the final line of the parable, 'Listen, anyone who has ears'?

What experiences of pathways, rocky ground, thorns and rich soil have you had in your life?

What might it mean to receive the word and produce a rich harvest?

What opportunities exist in your life to be the sower who scatters the seed?

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day.

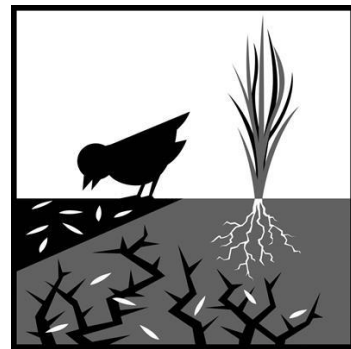
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome.

We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933].

They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests.

Please, no more war.



LIVING THE GOSPEL

Scatter that seed!

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.

FIRST READING Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
 you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over
 to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
 you drench its furrows,
 you level it, soften it with showers,
 you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
 Abundance flows in your steps,
 in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
 the meadows covered with flocks,
 the valleys are decked with wheat.
 They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
 all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.' The Gospel of the Lord.